



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MWD)
700 ALAMEDA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://coc.lacounty.gov>**

Thursday, October 25, 2018

9:00 AM

Attachment: [Audio](#)

Present: Chair Patti Giggans, Robert Bonner, James P. Harris
Casimiro Tolentino, Lael Rubin, Sean Kennedy and
Brian K. Williams

Absent: Vice – Chair Priscilla Ocen, Xavier Thompson, and Hernán Vera

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patti Giggans at 9:04 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Patti Giggans welcomed members of the Commission, requested a moment for meditation.

- Approval of September 27, 2018 meeting minutes.

On motion of Commissioner Bonner, seconded by Commissioner Rubin, there being no objection, the September 27, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

[supporting documents](#)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Opportunity for members of the public to address the COC on items of interest which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the COC.

There were 5 members of the public who addressed the Commission.

3. PRESENTATION

- Presentation by Abbe Land, Executive Director, Women and Girls Initiative

Executive Director Abbe Land introduced the Women and Girls Initiative to the

Commission. The Women and Girls Initiative's goal is to improve the quality of life for women and girls of Los Angeles County by applying a gender lens in three important areas: the county as an employer, service provider, and partner/participant. The Women and Girls Initiative has 5 strategic priorities for the next 3 years.

Chair Giggans asked if the WGI had access to data regarding sexual harassment in the workplace, county wide, and asked if Mrs. Land could share the data regarding the issue with the Commission at a later date. Mrs. Land stated she would look into whether that data can be shared.

Commissioner Tolentino stated he was interested in the data regarding base information regarding Los Angeles County's workforce.

There was 1 member of the public who addressed the Commission.

4. DISCUSSION AND UPDATES

- Update on LASD Enforcement Activities along the Interstate 5 Freeway

Undersheriff LaBerge introduced Chief John Benedict, who oversees the North Patrol Division and Captain Robert Lewis unit commander of the Santa Clarita Station. Captain Lewis provided the background of Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) to the Commission. Domestic Highway Enforcement is a nationwide effort. In 2011 the city of Santa Clarita had a high amount of overdose deaths which triggered the development of efforts from LASD such as the Juvenile Prevention Team (JPT). The JPT primarily deals with education, enforcement, and intervention.

Commissioner Rubin inquired whether LASD was privy to information regarding the contents of illegal substances in the vehicles they stopped.

Captain Lewis informed the committee that over 90 percent of the traffic stops conducted by LASD on Interstate 5 are considered "cold stops", there is no information provided to LASD staff pre-stop.

Commissioner Rubin also inquired if the information reported in the media regarding the ethnicity of those stopped was indeed Mexican American/Latino or if there was a way to determine the ethnicity of those stopped solely on Interstate 5.

Chief Benedict confirmed that the Domestic Highway Enforcement team is being reviewed by the office of the Inspector General, who is gathering documentation on their stops, as well as by the LASD Audit and Accountability Bureau and by the Constitutional Policing Advisor who are examining the DHE team's policies and practices.

Commissioner Rubin requested that OIG share the data they receive with the Commission.

Commissioner Kennedy shared his concerns regarding the Los Angeles Times report that LASD management was not aware that a number of cases were dismissed in Federal Court based on additional concerns of racial profiling during the stops.

Captain Lewis confirmed that LASD was aware of the cases that were dismissed on technicalities.

Chair Giggans requested that the OIG present at the next COC meeting the status of the report regarding data obtained from LASD.

- Update on allegations of Sheriff "Sheriff Secret Societies"

Civilian Oversight Commission Executive Director, Mr. Brian K. Williams updated the Commission on the activities since the Sheriff's visit to the July COC meeting. Mr. Williams stated that Commission staff has worked with County Counsel to request a consultant study the issue within LASD. Mr. Williams queried the Commission whether a new Ad Hoc Committee should be created to work in conjunction with the future consultant.

Commissioner Bonner, stated that the Commission has an important role to play and that it should execute it, either through the use of the existing Use of Force Ad Hoc Committee or through the creation of a new committee.

Executive Director Brian Williams suggested the Sheriff be present during the next Commission meeting to update the Commission and the public regarding the status of steps taken by LASD to address the allegations of "Sheriff Secret Societies" within LASD.

Max Huntsman, Inspector General recommended to have both the Sheriff and County Counsel address the Commission during the November COC meeting.

A new Ad Hoc was created to address the issue of Deputy Cliques within LASD with Commissioner Rubin as the chair and Commissioners Rubin, Harris, and Kennedy as members.

There were 2 members of the public who addressed the Commission.

The meeting recessed at 10:39 A.M.

Open session reconvened at 10:59 A.M. Present were Commissioners Robert Bonner, Chair Patti Giggans, James P. Harris, Sean Kennedy, Lael Rubin, Casimiro Tolentino, and Executive Director Brian K. Williams.

- Update on the PREA Implementation team

Karen Dalton from LASD and Tyson Nelson from County Counsel presented to the Commission regarding the current efforts to implement PREA and responded to questions posed by the Commission.

There were 3 members of the public who addressed the Commission

- Update from the Office of Inspector General
- **Max Huntsman, Inspector General, Provided an overview of the quarterly report and responded to questions posed by the Commission.**

There was 1 member of the public who addressed the Commission.

5. COMMISSION UPDATES

- Executive Director's Report
Mr. Williams reported the process of hiring a new paralegal is underway; there were over 100 applications received and the position should be filled within the next two months. Mr. Williams also reported that a several Commissioners and COC staff attended the annual National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement conference in October.

Both Commissioners Rubin and Chair Giggans shared their experience of the Conference with the Commission

Mr. Williams also reported that the COC hosted a Conference on October 15, 2018 with almost 300 attendees from Law Enforcement Agencies, various Community groups, and several County Departments. Mr. Williams thanked the Commissioners who participated as speakers and facilitators during the breakout sessions.

- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Update

Assistant Sheriff Kelly Harrington followed up on the activities to address the recruitment and retention issue within LASD and suggested that LASD staff present at future COC meetings regarding steps taken by the department.

- Commissioner Comments/Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Commissioner Bonner reported that the Use of Force Ad Hoc Committee is awaiting a report from OIG regarding data that relate to the adequacy of internal investigations and functioning of the discipline system.

Commissioner Rubin reported that the Bail Reform Ad Hoc Committee is awaiting an implementation plan from the Judicial Council to identify next steps of the committee. Commissioner Rubin also reported on behalf of Commissioner Vera regarding the Immigration Ad Hoc Committee who plans to present their report in

the next COC meetings. Commissioner Tolentino agreed to join the Immigration Ad Hoc Committee.

Chair Giggans reported to the Commission that the Family Assistance and Communication Ad Hoc Committee presented to the Board of Supervisors along with Sheriff McDonnell, Inspector General Huntsman, and COC Executive Director Williams during the October 9th 2018 BOS meeting. The Board moved to request that the CEO take the lead working with other departments to develop an implementation plan for the Family Assistance and Communication report recommendations within 60 days.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment.

Chair Giggans reported the next COC meeting will be held on November 15, 2018.

The Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission adjourned its meeting at 12:18 PM.